

UN Human Rights Council  
24<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle Review of Singapore, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Statement by AUSTRIA

Austria welcomes H.E. [N.N.] and the delegation of Singapore and thanks them for their national report.

We would like to pay tribute to the generally very high standard of Human Rights protection and the rule of law in Singapore and in particular acknowledge, by way of example, the remarkable progress achieved since its last UPR review in fields such as the protection of the rights of the elderly and the disabled and in the fight against human trafficking.

Regarding freedom of expression, we believe that an invitation by Singapore to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression could provide valid suggestions on how to achieve further progress in this field.

Allow us to make the following recommendations:

- 1) Formally repeal Section 377A of the Penal Code criminalising homosexual acts even if undertaken in private spaces
- 2) Adopt legislation to ensure that all cases of arrest and detention without warrant, also those under the Internal Security Act, are subject to speedy, independent and regular judicial review.
- 3) Include domestic work among the fields covered by the Employment Act, which would significantly improve the situation of many migrant workers.
- 4) Become a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

Thank you.